



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

Legislative Fiscal Analyst
CLAYTON SCHENCK

MEMORANDUM

PROPOSED DECISION PACKAGE LANGUAGE FOR 2009 BIENNIUM

DATE: May 24, 2006
TO: PEPB Members
FROM: Alan Peura, Subcommittee Staff
RE: Budget Initiatives work group

Following the conference call with work group members on March 20th, this staff report, requested by the work group, provides draft language for decision packages for the four university unit initiatives that were supported by the work group.

Initiative DP #1: Transferability and Integrated Student Data System (restricted, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$1.78 million to support improvements to the transferability and student data systems as follows:

- \$750,000 biennial appropriation to support development of a Data Warehouse and implementation of the required assessment models
- \$600,000 biennial appropriation to support the management of the project
- \$215,000 in FY 2008 to support faculty program council expenses
- \$215,000 in FY 2009 to continue support for faculty program council expenses, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report, to be presented to the PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - transfer pathways have been created in 22 different program and subject areas
 - that the number of potential pre-post-secondary educational credits that are accepted by the university system (e.g. dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, tech prep, etc.) has been increased by 25 percent

The university system is invited to request the ongoing, sustainability needs of this project in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget**, subject to a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- that appeals of transfer credit decisions have been reduced by 50% from the baseline year of 2006-2007
- that K-12 graduation standards and post-secondary proficiency standards in composition, mathematics and science will be aligned

- that articulation agreements between all university units, community colleges and tribal colleges are in place for the 22 transfer pathways
- that retention and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses are the same as rates for students that have not transferred between campuses

Initiative DP #2: Improve Affordability (restricted, biennial, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, biennial, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$2.5 million to support the MPACT scholarship program at university educational units across the Montana University System.

The university system is invited to request state funding to establish this as an ongoing, sustainable program in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget**, subject to a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- completion of a comprehensive plan that coordinates all student financial aid component (e.g. Baker, MHEG, Pell, SEOG, Governor's Scholarships, MPACT, tuition waivers, etc.) so that all programs comprise an integrated system of student aid that can accomplish the Shared Policy goals of affordability
- that this comprehensive, integrated student aid program has increased the average state funded need-based aid award to each student by \$ 70 per capita (from \$71 to \$141), which is equal to a 100% increase
- that this comprehensive, integrated student aid program will increase retention and completion rates for the targeted need-based aid students by ____%

Initiative DP #3: Coordinate and Expand Distance Learning (restricted)

The PEPB recommends a restricted general fund appropriation of \$600,000 to support the expansion and coordination of the distance learning program across the university system as follows:

- \$300,000 in FY 2008 to support this program and to continue work on the "Montana Distance Learning Gateway"
- \$300,000 in FY 2009 to continue program support, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report that is presented to PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - an increase of ____% of students enrolled in distance learning education courses
 - an increase of ____% in the number of distance learning courses and programs that are offered
 - an increase of ____% in the number of new credit and non-credit distance education programs that are intended to serve primarily workers in need of career training and employers in need of specially skilled workers

Initiative DP #4: Healthcare Worker Education (restricted, partial OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$3 million to support the Healthcare Worker Education program as follows:

- \$.25 million in FY 2008 to support development and completion of a statewide comprehensive plan, with clear long-term goals, for funding individual initiatives to expand healthcare training programs

- \$2.75 million in FY 2009 to support funding individual initiatives to expand healthcare training programs, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report that is presented to PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - that a completed statewide plan, with clear long-term goals, has been completed and is operational for implementation in FY 2009, including a funding plan for individual initiatives to expand healthcare training programs
 - that the healthcare data team is fully operational
 - that the advisory group is meeting and is fully operational

The university system is invited to request ongoing, sustainable funding for this project in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget**, subject to a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- that funded individual initiatives are on track to increase the number of allied health degrees by _____# by _____date
- that funded individual initiatives are on track to increase the number of certificates awarded in the allied health professions by _____# by _____date
- that private sector funding matches have been committed to a minimum level of \$_____, that will support healthcare training programs in accordance with the statewide plan

In addition, the PEPB recommends a restricted general fund appropriation of \$1 million to support an increase of WWAMI slots, up to 10, for Montana resident students (restricted such that any funding not used for WWAMI slots can only be used to fund other need-based student financial aid program in Program 02 of the MUS/OCHE budget).

**** Note:** It is the intention of these statements to try and trigger that ongoing funding (that which would roll into the next budget base) for these specific initiative components could be appropriated by these initiatives **contingent upon** the approval and verification by the interim PEPB that the HB 2 accountability measures stated in the DP's have been met by the required date to the required level/degree. More work needs to be done on this concept so consider this a “developing” issue and that the above language is a placeholder. Legislative Services legal staff has, in a preliminary discussion, suggested that a separate bill draft to serve as a “companion to HB2” could be a vehicle to operationalize such a mechanism. This will be determined should PEPB choose to go forward with these initiatives.